

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claim 26 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-25 and 27 will remain pending in the present application. Each of these claims has been indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an action to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

Initially, Applicants again wish to bring to the Examiner's attention an Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on January 18, 2006. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider each of the documents cited in the above noted Information Disclosure Statement and indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form that was attached to the above noted Information Disclosure Statement.

Of course, should a copy of the above noted Information Disclosure Statement, or the documents cited therein, not be available to the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned who will endeavor to provide copies of the missing documents for the Examiner's consideration.

At least because the above noted Information Disclosure Statement was filed prior to with the issuance of any Office Action on the merits in the present application, Applicants respectfully submit that consideration of each of the documents cited therein is appropriate and proper, and is thus again respectfully requested.

By the present response, and as noted above, Applicants have canceled the only rejected claim in the present application. Such cancellation is expressly made without

prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. In particular, in the prior response filed in the present application, Applicants have set forth adequate and sufficient reasons evidencing the patentability of claim 26. However, since the Examiner has not accepted these reasons, and merely in order to expedite the allowance of the present publication, in which the overwhelming majority of the claims have been allowed, Applicants are canceling claim 26 merely to facilitate and expedite the allowance of the present application.

Applicants note that the status of the present application is after final rejection. Applicants further note that they do not have a right to amend an application once a final rejection has been issued therein. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the present amendment and passage of the present application to issue is appropriate and proper and is in full accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. In particular, by canceling the sole rejected claim, no new issues are being raised that require further consideration or search. Additionally, all the outstanding issues regarding the patentability of the present application have been rendered moot and the application has thus clearly been placed in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, entry of the present amendment, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and prompt passage of the present application to issue is respectfully requested and is now believed the appropriate and proper.

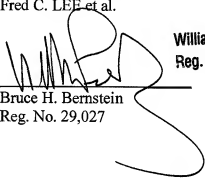
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have canceled the sole rejected claim, thus rendering the outstanding rejection moot.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Fred C. LEE et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33,630

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191